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Brief Summary of Country News.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any opinions expressed in this Summary; as all the notices are either collated from the local papers, or supplied to us by occasional correspondents.

ABINGDON.—The Musical Association commenced the season on the 2nd ult. with an open night. The programme included Spohr's "God thou art great," and a Selection from Mendelssohn. The solo parts were sustained by Miss Wells and Messrs. G. Glanville and Tayler. We are gratified to learn that the Association is prospering under the conductorship of Mr. E. L. Shepherd.

BEDFORD.—The Organ which was in the old Moravian Chapel, St. Peter's, has now been placed in the new building. It has been renovated and improved in the mechanism by Mr. F. Booth, of Wakefield; and looks very handsome in its carved oak case, in which it once adorned the parish church of St. Paul's. At the opening service an efficient choir sang the 100th Psalm; and the anthem was Beethoven's *Hallelujah*. On the following Sunday morning, the *Te Deum*, set to music by Mr. P. H. Diemer, R.A.M., and the first chorus from Spohr's *Last Judgment* were given; and in the evening the 100th Psalm and Handel's "Worthy is the Lamb." During the service the tone of the organ was much admired.—Mr. P. H. DIEMER's second concert at the Bedford Rooms was extremely well attended. Madame Rudersdorf was the vocalist of the evening; and was eminently successful in all her songs, especially in the popular "Il Bacio," which elicited a perfect storm of applause. Mr. H. Blagrove charmed everybody by his excellent violin playing; and Mr. P. H. Diemer displayed an admirable command over his instrument in his performance of Benedict's Piano-forte Fantasia *Erin*. A part-song, called "The Cuckoo," by Mr. P. H. Diemer, pleased immensely, and elicited an enthusiastic encore.—The Annual Union of Choirs, including St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and St. Mary's, in connexion with the usual Harvest Thanksgiving Service took place at St. Paul's Church, on the 14th of September. The service was full choral, and the anthems selected for the occasion "Fear not, O land" (Goss), and "Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem" (Hayes), both of which were extremely well sung by the united choirs under the direction of Mr. Rose, Organist of St. Peter's.

BRADFORD.—A very excellent performance of Spohr's *Last Judgment*, and Mendelssohn's *Lauda Sion*, was given in St. George's Hall, on the 9th ult. In Spohr's work the solos were entrusted to Misses Fitton and Nalton, Mr. William Coates and Mr. Rushforth; and in the *Lauda Sion*, which was given for the first time in Bradford, the vocalists were Miss Wheatley, Miss Nalton, Mr. R. Leach, and Mr. M'Birnie. The choruses were extremely well sung; and the entire performance reflected the highest credit upon the Members of the "Festival Choral Society," by whom the concert was given. Mr. Haddock was the leader of the orchestra, Mr. W. Jackson conducted, and Mr. John Burton presided at the organ.

BRIDLINGTON.—On Sunday, September 24th, the Organ, in the Priory Church (which has undergone a thorough repair, and Pedal pipes added from CCC to F, as well as two new stops, under the hands of W. W. Denman, of York) was reopened by Mr. J. M. Wilson, the Organist, when an appropriate service was performed by an effective choir.—On Wednesday, September 27th, the First Festival of the South Dickering District of the York Choral Association was held in the fine old Priory Church which was filled with an immense congregation (about 2000 persons). The choirs which took part in the service were from the surrounding villages and numbered about 150 voices. The service was intoned by the Rev. H. Parr, M.A., Vicar of St. Martin's-on-the-Hill, Scarborough; and the sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Hordern, M.A., Rural Dean. Mr. J. M. Wilson presided at the organ.

CALLINGTON.—The first meeting of the Choral Association of the Deanery of East Cornwall, took place at Callington, on Monday, the 25th September. The choirs present were Callington, Calstock, Duloe, St. Dominic, St. Ive, North Hill, South Hill, Stokedinsland, Menhenot, numbering about 140 voices. The anthems chosen for the occasion were Kent's "Blessed be thou, Lord God," and Weldon's "O Praise God in his holiness."

CORNHOLME, near Burnley.—On Saturday evening, the 14th ult., a concert and reading was given in the British School-Room, the Rev. R. Abercrombie in the chair. Readings were given by Messrs. Ainsworth, Wood, and Ormerod. The songs and glees were sung by Miss Taylor, Miss Earnshaw, Messrs. Aston, Bulcock, and Greenwood, and Mr. Matthew Arnold of Leeds performed several solos on the Pianoforte.

DUDLEY.—On Monday, the 25th of September, there was a Choral Service held in the Parish Church to celebrate the ingathering of the harvest. The church was most beautifully decorated. As the Choir and Clergy entered to take their places, Mr. Blunden played a Grand March from *Ahab*, an Oratorio by Dr. Arnold, Organist of Winchester Cathedral. The *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* were chanted to Gregorian Tones, and the Anthem was "O be joyful," by Dr. Hayes; before the sermon, which was preached by the Rev. Dr. Miller, of Birmingham, the Harvest-Hymn, "Come, ye thankful people, come," was sung. As the congregation were leaving the church, Mr. Blunden played Mendelssohn's Fourth Sonata on the Organ.

FRITTENDEN, KENT.—At the Annual Harvest Home, held on the 6th ult., the Vocal Quartette Union gave an entertainment of two hours' duration, consisting of glees, songs, and catches, which afforded manifest satisfaction.

HALIFAX.—On Friday evening, the 20th ult., at its 18th performance, the Haley Hill Choral Society performed, for the first time in Halifax, Dr. Bennett's cantata *The May Queen*. The performance attracted an audience which crowded the Haley Hill school. Miss Tankard, Miss Suter, Mr. Dennis, and Mr. Briggs sustained the principal parts with great success. The second part consisted of a selection of glees, &c. Mr. Whittaker conducted with his usual care and precision.

HAVERFORDWEST.—The fine old church of St. Martin's (the most ancient in this town) was reopened on Thursday, the 28th September. In the morning, the Lord Bishop of St. David's preached, prayers being read by the Incumbent, the Rev. S. O. Meares; the lessons by the Rev. J. A. Phillips, of Pictou Castle, and the Rev. J. Thomas, of Harbeston. The choir—an unpaid one—organized and led by a lady amateur, sang with good effect, Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley's anthem, "How goodly are thy tents, O Jacob;" and the canticles (Cooper's *Te Deum*) and tunes from *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, were given with spirit and precision. It may be interesting to some to know that the restoration, costing upwards of £2,000, has been effected by voluntary subscription, and the collection, made during the day, towards the sum yet unpaid, amounted to £50. The seats are all free, and the whole building is one of which the inhabitants of Haverfordwest may be justly proud.

HEREFORD.—The Michaelmas Special Concert of the Hereford Choral Society took place at the College Hall on the 4th ult. The programme was sustained by the Members of the Society, the Revs. J. Goss, F. T. Havergal, and G. Custance, kindly supplying the places of the lay clerks of the Cathedral, who declined on this occasion to give their services on the terms hitherto existing. Some of the amateur vocalists were so good as to merit particular mention, especially the Misses Broad, Mr. Cox, and the Rev. G. Custance, the last-named gentleman displaying a fine bass voice and good style in Hullah's song, "The Storm," which was unanimously encored. Mr. G. Townshend Smith conducted in his usual efficient manner, and also accompanied the songs. The Rev. J. Hanbury presided in the most able manner at the pianoforte.

HEXHAM.—The Organ lately belonging to Carlisle Cathedral having been purchased for the Abbey Church here, was opened on the 19th ult., when a musical service was performed by the choir of St. Andrew's, Newcastle. In the evening the Anthem was by Mozart, "Judge me, O Lord," and "I will give thanks." The capabilities of the fine organ (which has been excellently repaired and renovated by Mr. Nicholson, Organ builder of Newcastle) were extremely well tested, in the morning by Mr. Rea, organist of the new Town Hall, Newcastle, who performed the fugue from *Judas Maccabaeus*—and in the evening by the new organist of the Abbey Church, Mr. John Nicholson, whose playing throughout the service was much admired. The organ, which originally cost £1,200, was bought for £300; and it has been enlarged and erected in its new position at a total cost of about £650. We are happy to say, however, that in consequence of a very liberal subscription, the debt has been liquidated with the exception of about £50.

IGBOROUGH, NORFOLK.—On Tuesday evening, the 17th ult., a Concert was given in the School-room by desire of the Lady Ashburton, the Hon. Alexander Baring, M.P., and the Hon. Mrs. Baring, that they might with their friends witness the general improvement of the Choir under their present Organist and Choirmaster, Mr. Walter G. Hammond, of Mundford. Several choruses, part-songs, &c., were sung by the choir, the most successful being "Native Land" (the Confederate Hymn), "See our oars," "All among the Barley," "A Canadian Boat song," and "The last Rose of Summer" (arranged by Balfe) encored. Several of Mr. Hammonds's friends assisted and greatly added to the success of the evening.

IPSWICH.—The Annual Festival of the Ipswich branch of the Norfolk and Suffolk Church Choral Association was celebrated on the 28th September. The Clergy and Members of the Choirs met at the Lecture Hall; and, having formed procession, marched to the church, entering by the great western door singing the processional hymn, "God of grace, O let Thy light." At the service, the united choirs sang the responses, and the *Magnificat* and *Nunc dimittis* were given in a manner most creditable to the whole of those connected with the Association. The anthem, selected from the music of Mozart, "Glorious is Thy Name, Almighty Lord," was exceedingly well sung, the parts being taken up with precision by the several choirs. Mr. Lindley Nunn ably presided at the organ.

LEDBURY.—A farewell Concert, in connection with Mr. Bather's retirement as Organist of Ledbury Church, took place at the Feathers' room on the 29th September. Mr. Bather presided at the Pianoforte, and Mr. Peacock, of Bosbury, conducted. The concert was extremely successful; many encores being awarded to the singers, several of whom were amateurs. The attendance was very numerous; and we trust that this farewell performance will prove remunerative to Mr. Bather, who leaves Ledbury with the good wishes of all.

LEEDS.—At the Town Hall, two very interesting performances were given on the Grand Organ by Dr. Spark, on Saturday evening, 21st ult., and on Tuesday afternoon 24th ult.: the former being a tribute of respect to the memory of W. Vincent Wallace, the latter a performance of Funereal music to the memory of the late Premier. The selection from Wallace's works comprised the gems of five operas, *Maritana*, *Love's Triumph*, *The Desert Flower*, *Amber*

Witch, and *Lurline*, each of these being worked into a Fantasia, as much in the Organ style as the nature of the music allowed. The selections were preceded by the Dead March in *Saul*, which, on a grand organ like that in the Leeds Town Hall, produced a most impressive effect. All the pieces were heartily applauded, and the admirers of Wallace assembled in full force, there being nearly a thousand persons present. The Funerbal music for Lord Palmerston included Funeral marches by Beethoven, Handel, and Mendelssohn; "Blessed are the dead," Spohr; "I know that my Redeemer liveth;" "Angels ever bright and fair;" and Beethoven's "Hallelujah" from the *Mount of Olives*.

LIVERPOOL.—The Eighth Subscription Concert for the present season of the Philharmonic Society was given on the 3rd ult. The principal instrumental works were the Overtures to *Euryanthe*, and *Die Zauberflöte*, and Haydn's Symphony, No. 12. Beethoven's Pianoforte Concerto in E flat was played to perfection by Mr. Charles Hallé, who also performed Chopin's Fantasia Impromptu, Op. 66, and Heller's *Tarantella*, in A flat. The vocalists were Miss Edmonds and Mr. Sims Reeves. The concert was extremely well attended, and was highly successful. At the Ninth Concert, Mozart's Symphony in G minor was performed; and the principal singers were Mesdemoiselles Titiens and Sarolta, Signori Stagno and Foli. Madlle. Titiens' refined and expressive rendering of Weber's "Und ob die Wolke" was the theme of universal admiration.—Mr. Skeaf's Annual Concert took place at the Liverpool Institute, Mount-street, on Wednesday evening, the 18th ult., before a numerous audience. The vocalists were Madlle. Louisa Van Noorden, Mrs. Skeaf, Mr. J. Ayrey, Mr. E. Foulkes, and Mr. T. J. Hughes, assisted by a Glee Party. Solo Cornet, Mr. Purcell; Organ, Mr. D. C. Browne; Conductor and Solo Pianoforte, Mr. Skeaf, who performed his new Fantasia, entitled Sabbath Evening Chimes, which received a most unanimous encore.

SHREWSBURY.—A complimentary Concert was given on the 19th ult., at the Music Hall, to Mr. John Lloyd, an amateur who has been well known for the last thirty years, not only for his talent, but for the readiness with which he gives his services in the cause of charity. The principal vocalists were Mrs. A. Sutton, Mr. R. Forrest, and Mr. Frank Jones. Mrs. Sutton was extremely successful in all her songs; and Mr. Forrest and Mr. Frank Jones—the latter gentleman not only possessing an excellent voice, but knowing well how to use it—were listened to with the utmost pleasure. The instrumentalists were Signor Giulio Regondi (Guitar and Concertina), Mr. James Matthews (Flute), and Mr. Rawlings (Pianoforte), all of whom acquitted themselves admirably.

SKIPTON.—Two Concerts were given in the Town Hall on the 2nd ult., the artistes being Miss Maria Wilson of St. Stephen's Choir Hull, and Messrs. Plowman, Hird, Hudson, Holmes, and Turner of York.—On Monday, the 9th ult., Miss Petyt, assisted by Miss Helena Walker, Miss Winder, Mr. Brandon, and Dr. Spark, gave her first Concert in the Town Hall. The performance was very successful, many of the songs being encored.

STAFFORD.—On Wednesday evening, the 4th ult., the Choral Society performed Mozart's Twelfth Mass, at St. Mary's School-room. The band and chorus numbered about 50; Mr. Sharwood conducted, and Mr. Plant presided at the Harmonium. The assistance of a string Quartet from Birmingham was secured; and Mrs. Hayward and Miss Wight, of Wolverhampton; and Mr. Glydon and Mr. Gilbert, of Birmingham, sang the principal solos.—On Monday evening, the 16th ult., a Concert was given by the Committee of St. Mary's Institute in the Reading-room. The concert commenced with the Overture to the *Calph of Bagdad*, which the amateur band played with precision and expression, giving evidence of Mr. Linter's careful instruction and direction. The part songs were all old favorites, and, with one exception, were repeated at the desire of the audience.

SYDNEY.—The Lyster Opera Company has completed a very successful season here, having performed, in about a fortnight, no less than fourteen Operas.—On the 1st August, the Orpheonist Society gave a concert at the Masonic Hall. The programme was of a miscellaneous character, and the performers consisted principally of the pupils of Madame E. Wallace Bushelle, whose talent as instructress, and skill as a musician, are well known. Two of the ladies particularly distinguished themselves; and the gentlemen, especially the tenor, gave great promise of future excellence. Mr. Cullen conducted with his usual precision.—The St. Mary's Choral Society also gave a concert during the month, under the direction of Mr. W. J. Corder, which was very successful.—At the School of Arts, Mr. Heine, the celebrated blind violinist, assisted by Mrs. Heine, an excellent pianist, have been giving a series of concerts, the attendance at which has been gradually improving.—CONCERTS have also been given in the suburban districts of Balmain, Newtown and Cook's River, which appear to have been called into existence by the diffusion of the cheap editions of the Standard Works by Messrs. Novello and Co.

WINDSOR.—The Members of St. John's Church Choir, with Mr. Smith, their Organist, have presented the Rev. T. Rooke, M.A., the late Curate, and their Precentor, with an original copy in imitative old binding and black letter, of John Marbeck's *Notes and Common Places*, published in 1581. As Marbeck was Organist of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and narrowly escaped martyrdom in connection with the manuscript of these very *Notes*—when two of the choir really suffered—the present is very interesting and appropriate.

WITHINGTON.—The members of the Withington Choral Union have presented their Conductor, Mr. F. Busby, with a Handsome Writing Desk previous to his leaving the neighbourhood. A Farewell Dinner was also given on the 21st ult. at the Merchants' Dining Rooms, Manchester, when about thirty musical friends sat down, and a very agreeable evening was spent.

WORCESTER.—The new Organ in St. John's Church was opened on Sunday the 22nd September. The sermon in the morning was preached by the Rev. Sir F. A. Gore Ouseley, Bart., and that in the evening by the Rev. T. L. Claughton, Hon. Canon of Worcester. The Service in the morning was sustained by the Parish Choir, and in the evening full Choral Service was given by the Cathedral Choir, with Wesley's Anthem, "Blessed be the God." Mr. R. Taylor, Assistant-Organist of the Cathedral, and Organist of St. John's, very ably presided at the organ.—The Choir of the Presbyterian Church gave a Concert in the Hall of the Natural History Society's Rooms, on the 28th September, in aid of the Building Fund for the new Church. The programme consisted chiefly of Scotch songs, which were well rendered and gave much pleasure to the large audience that filled the Hall. Mr. Baldwin played a solo on the Harp, and Mr. Bowie, the Choirmaster, conducted.

ORGAN APPOINTMENTS.—Miss Butterworth, to St. Paul's Church, Mill Hill, Hendon, N.W.—Mr. J. V. Green, to the Parish Church, Fubworth.—Mr. Thomas Leaman, to the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Ilmington, Somerset.—Mr. A. Dunand, to St. Mary's Church, Hornsey Rise.—Mr. T. E. Aylward, to the Parish Church, Cheltenham.

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